



ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

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June 6, 2002

Bill Douros, Superintendent
Stephanie Harlan, Chair, Sanctuary Advisory Council
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Via Facsimile: 831-647-4250

Dear Mr. Douros, and Ms. Harlan:

I am writing in my capacity as Executive Director of the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo (ECOSLO) to let you know that we wholeheartedly support the extension of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to cover the coastal waters of San Luis Obispo County. ECOSLO supports the extension in order to provide more protection for marine resources. The need for a sanctuary is great.

Marine sanctuaries help to increase our knowledge and understanding of complex marine ecosystems. They help monitor both human and natural changes in the environment and help prevent further harmful impacts. Sanctuaries protect marine resources such as coral reefs, sunken historical vessels and unique habitats, while facilitating all "compatible" public and private uses of those resources.

The sad fact is that we are losing marine habitats, marine resources are in decline, fisheries are in decline, and water quality continues to be a problem. We see the oceans becoming more and more polluted. In thinking long term, the extension of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary will allow us to better manage our marine resources and protect them for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela Marshall Heatherington".
Pamela Marshall Heatherington
Executive Director